

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, March 19, 2015

SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman, arrived at 6:07

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Douglas Arnold

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities/Transportation and Safety

Shawn Brown, Town Administrator

Rick Lombardi, Town Councilman

The Budget Workshop was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Stephen Ponte, Gail Abromitis, Linda Beaupre, and Michelle Fonseca.

The budget is split into 4 major categories; Restricted Funds which are used to account for specific dollars, Enterprise Funds which are funds used to account for activities for which a fee is charged, Capital Improvement Program funds account for major capital repairs, and General Operational Funds which are the chief operating funds within the district. Mrs. Kraeger said the budget comes close to the targeted number, but it does not meet the needs of the district.

Increases in the budget include employee contractual increases, regional Special Education, tuition to state and charter schools, and current and post-employment benefits. There is an expected 4% increase in property insurance and a 3% increase in transportation with the addition of one bus.

Budgetary savings/reductions include savings in co-share premiums, reduction in medical premiums, and a reduction of 4.8 full-time positions. A major challenge is the funding formula. We are in the 5th year of the 10 year reductions. Final numbers will be available at the end of April or early May.

The Municipal Appropriation is 66.77%, State Funding accounts for 22.72%, Federal Funding accounts for 7.75%, Local Revenue is 1.8%, Private Donations are .5 % and the Fund Balance is .32%.

The main expenditure is salaries at 54.89%, followed by benefits at 20.23%.

The General Fund Budget is a 1.01% increase from last year. The

school department is requesting a 2.58% increase. The total proposed FY 2015-2016 budget request is \$38,432,569.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the Budget Workshop at 6:45 p.m. Unanimous vote.

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The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “Proclamations and Awards” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•Student Awards – Student awards were presented for Newport Life Magazine’s 5th Annual Writing Contest.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To move “MHS/RHS Community Dance” up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

MHS/RHS Community Dance - Middletown High School and Rogers High School students discussed the upcoming community dance. The main goal of the dance, which will be held in the Rogers gym, is to create a community event and establish a good relationship. The principals of both high schools met with the students.

Breathalyzer policies at the schools are different so there will be two separate check-in lines. Both schools will follow their own eligibility requirements. A contract was created that students signed when they bought their ticket. One police officer will be present. Depending on the number of tickets sold, more officers will be present.

A brief recess was taken. The meeting resumed at 7:21 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Project Lead The Way”

Dr. Carolyn Malstron, Senior Director of School Engagement, Project Lead The Way, gave the committee an overview of the program. Middletown is currently into year one of implementation. PLTW is a

non-profit which started in 1997. It is in over 6,500 schools in the United States. The mission is to prepare students for a global economy. One goal is to make students lifelong learners and engage them early. PLTW is built on a world class curriculum designed and consistently reviewed by PLTW teachers, university educators, industry experts, and school administrators. The curriculum is aligned to common core and next generation science standards. All teachers must go through a sequence of Professional Development readiness training, core training and on-going training.

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INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Food, Nutrition and Wellness Committee minutes**
- Donation letters**
- Vacation Enrichment Program for April and summer**
- Draft resolution on gun free schools**
- Sports Awards Night for winter athletes**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for March 19, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O’Connell. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

oJanuary 29, 2015 Budget Workshop

oFebruary 12, 2015 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting

oFebruary 23, 2015 Budget Workshop and Special School Committee Meeting

•Approval of the following vouchers:

February Voucher Summary

| Voucher Number | Date | Total |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1287 | 2/3/2015 | \$19,993.44 |
| 1286 | 2/3/2015 | \$312,058.82 |
| 1270 | 2/8/2015 | \$77,868.31 |
| 1269 | 2/8/2015 | \$112,822.09 |
| 1268 | 2/8/2015 | \$8,257.04 |
| 1267 | 2/8/2015 | \$321,515.77 |
| 1297 | 2/12/2015 | \$45.67 |

1289 2/17/2015 \$1,360.88
1288 2/17/2015 \$3,721.06
1271 2/18/2015 \$269,102.07
1292 2/19/2015 \$77.00
1291 2/19/2015 \$139.00
1290 2/19/2015 \$96.00
1282 2/19/2015 \$786.46
1281 2/19/2015 \$37,998.26
1280 2/19/2015 \$13,081.94
1293 2/25/2015 \$671.54
1296 2/26/2015 \$56,281.87
1295 2/26/2015 \$349.00
1294 2/26/2015 \$685.62
\$1,236,911.84

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 9, 2015

Dena Silvia Elementary Teacher, Aquidneck School

**TRANSFER FROM 3-HOUR TO 4-HOUR TEACHER ASSISTANT
EFFECTIVE MARCH 20, 2015**

Kerry Doherty Forest Avenue School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 23, 2015

Kathleen Lima 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

Carolyn Wiest 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

RESIGNATION AT THE END OF THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

Barbara Johnson Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

Donna Gibson Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2015

John-Paul Massaro Varsity Boys' Tennis

Zachary Yates Assistant Varsity Baseball

Jonathan Devolve Junior Varsity Baseball

Darcy Roland Assistant Varsity Girls' Track

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ACTION ITEMS

LUNCH PRICES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the

School Committee approve a .10¢ increase in lunch prices. Motion passed 4 to 1.

YEA: ABSENT FROM VOTE:

Theresa Spengler Liana Fenton

Kellie DiPalma Simeone

William O'Connell

Douglas Arnold

Middletown falls below the average with the East Bay districts. This increase will be effective in September.

SNOW DAY RELIEF

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee direct the Superintendent to petition RIDE for relief of one day for the State of Emergency. Motion passed 4 to 1.

YEA: ABSENT FROM VOTE:

Theresa Spengler Liana Fenton

Kellie DiPalma Simeone

William O'Connell

Douglas Arnold

There was one day during a recent snowstorm that the Governor declared a state of emergency. The entire state was shut down. Currently, the last day of school is June 24th.

BUDGET APPROVAL

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee approve the 2015-2016 Budget in the amount of 38,432,569. Unanimous vote.

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The school department is requesting a 2.58% increase. Mrs. Fenton would like to see more staff for remediation and math. Mrs. Spengler agreed. The Transmittal Letter will be sent to the Town tomorrow. Meetings should be set up with parent groups to get the word out.

OLD BUSINESS

School Calendar – Four versions of the school calendar were developed for school year 2015-2016. There was a great response to the survey. Survey participants overwhelmingly voted to eliminate February Break (54%), while 43% voted to keep it. Portsmouth not eliminating the February Break. Teachers were surveyed and chose Option 1.

•The four options are as follows:

Option 1 – Start school before Labor Day on September 2nd. The last day of school will be on June 15th. Keep February Break.

Option 2 – Start school before Labor Day on September 2nd. The last day of school will be on June 10th. Eliminate February Break except for Monday and Tuesday.

Option 3 – Start school after Labor Day on September 9th. The last day of school will be June 16th. Eliminate February Break except for Monday and Tuesday.

Option 4 – Start school after Labor Day on September 9th. The last day of school will be on June 21st. Keep February Break.

Mrs. Spengler chose Option 1.

Mrs. Simeone and Mrs. Fenton chose Option 2.

Mr. Arnold chose Option 3.

Mr. O'Connell did not have a choice.

Impact Fees – The Town Council approved the extension for the use of the Impact Fees. A meeting will be held next Friday with the Town Administrator and Town Solicitor.

NEW BUSINESS

•**RHS/MHS Community Dance – This was covered earlier in the**

meeting.

- **Facilities Committee – Administration met with Jay Litman from Fielding Nair to discuss reconvening the Core Committee. The Master Facilities Plan was not accepted by community. We will be looking for new members. An ad will be put in the newspaper requesting applicants.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **Curriculum – Mrs. Savastano reported that PARCC Assessment began this week. It began with English Language Arts across the district. Teachers and students are**

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handling it very well and it has been remarkably managed. The schools need to be commended for their work. Mrs. Kraeger thanked Mrs. Savastano and her team. Mr. Andy Longo at Middletown High School, Mrs. Linda Beaupre at Gaudet School, and Mrs. Patsy King at the elementary level are the building coordinators. The results will be released in the fall.

•**Financial** - This was covered during the Budget Workshop.

•**Facilities** – Mr. Anderson updated the committee on the Facilities Department:

•**State Inspections** - The R.I. Department of Health inspected the AHERA management plan. The review was extremely positive. There was one minor non-compliance item that has been fixed.

•**Card Access System** – Meetings have been conducted with Integrated Security. Hardware installation is complete, with the exception of the high school. System roll out will be scheduled with Administrators from each building. The targeted completion date is April 3rd.

•**School Paving** – There was significant damage to a 500 sq. ft. area at the Forest Avenue School parking lot. The area has been patched by the maintenance staff. Permanent repairs and/or resurfacing is required.

•**Roof Inspections** – There are 4 areas at Middletown High School and Gaudet School that have been identified. The areas at the Gaudet School main entrance and Middletown High School surrounding the cafeteria total 8,000 – 10,000 sq. ft.

•**Snow Removal** – Snow removal was conducted at the Gaudet School synthetic field, tennis courts, and batting cages as well as the Middletown High School softball field. The Facilities Department has met with Athletic Director Karen Massaro and Salve Regina's Athletic Director Colin Sullivan to address concerns and meet the needs for

spring sports.

•HVAC – The gym units and unit vents in the band and chorus rooms at the high school have been completed. The Facilities Department is working with Arden Engineering and National Grid to explore potential rebates.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To extend meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Spengler appointed Mrs. Kellie DiPalma Simeone to fill the School Sector seat of the Middletown Prevention Coalition. Miss Alexa Simard was appointed to the Youth Sector seat.

Mrs. Fenton and Mrs. Simeone attended a State School Board meeting on negotiations.

Mrs. Fenton attended a Governors Workforce Board for Career Pathways which connects PK-12 to universities and the workplace.

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Mrs. Fenton would like to have the Newport Career Tech instructors attend a meeting to discuss the programs offered. Could a partnership be set up with a local automotive company? Mrs. Kraeger will get dates for a possible workshop.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:03 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Chair